

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9022

INFO AMEMBASY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0076

DEPT FOR SY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, ASEC, ARAB LEAGUE

SUBJECT: SECURITY - ARAB LEAGUE OFFICES NEW YORK AND OTHERS

1. WHITE HOUSE MEMORANDUM OF DEC 20, 1977 APPROVED EXECUTIVE PROTECTIVE SERVICE (EPS) COVERAGE PRESENTLY IN EFFECT IN NEW YORK CITY FOR A TOTAL OF THIRTY DAYS COMMENCING DEC 19, 1977. THIS MEMORANDUM DIRECTS THAT ANY NEED FOR EXTENSION BEYOND THE THIRTY-DAY PRIOD BE SUPPORTED WITH DETAILED INFORMATION. EPS COVERAGE IS BEING PROVIDED, DURING BUSINESS HOURS, AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS IN NEW YORK CITY, ALL ARE ABOVE STREET LEVEL: PERMANENT MISSION OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS, PERMANENT MISSION OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC OF THE UNITED NATIONS, CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT, PALESTINE LINBERATION ORGANIZATIION, AND LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES.

2. THE RECENT ASSESSINATION OF PLO REPRESENTATIVE SAID HAMMAMI IN LONDON, WHICH OCCURRED IN THE OFFICES OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES, PROMPTS US TO STRONGLY URGE THAT EPS COVERAGE AT THOSE TWO SITES IN NEW YORK CITY BE CON-
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TINUED. FOR THIS ASSASSINATION TO HAVE OCCURRED IN A CITY SO COMPARABLE TO NEW YORK GIVES US SERIOUS CONCERN. BOTH THE PLO AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES HAVE A HIGH LEVEL OF VISIBILITY IN NEW YORK CITY. THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE HERE, ZEHDİ TERZİ, IS AN ACTIVE AND OUTSPOKEN PERSON WHO RECEIVES WIDE MEDIA COVERAGE. THIS OFFICE OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES IS HEADED BY AN EQUALLY WELL KNOWN

INDIVIDUAL, FORMER EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AMIN HELMY. ON DECEMBER 16, 1977, THE ARAB INFORMATION CENTER (SAME ADDRESS AS LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES) TOOK A FULL PAGE AD IN THE NEW YORK TIMES IN SUPPORT OF THE PLO "AS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE WHEREVER THEY MAY BE". ACCORDING TO REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE POLICE, BOTH THE PLO AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THREATENING PHONE CALLS.

3. SPECIFIC JUSTIFICATION FOR CONTINUANCE OF EPS COVERAGE AT THE ISRAELI AND SYRIAN MISSIONS, AND THE EGYPTIAN CONSULATE GENERAL, IS MORE DIFFICULT. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO DEPT'S 5184 (LONDON'S 272), THE RECENT BOMB EXPLOSION IN LONDON, WHICH KILLED TWO MEMBERS OF THE SYRIAN EMBASSY, IS STILL UNEXPLAINED.

IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS AND SECRETARY VANCE'S IMMINENT TRAVEL TO JERUSALEM TO CONTINUE THEM, THE USE OF EVERY SAFEGUARD AGAINST A POSSIBLE INCIDENT AT ANY OF THE LOCATIONS PRESENTLY RECEIVING EPS COVERAGE IN NEW YORK CITY WOULD SEEM A PRUDENT COURSE TO FOLLOW DURING THIS CRITICAL NEGOTIATING PERIOD.

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